

And so I ask you to do this: I ask you to go to the Congress and ask them to support this program. And go with respect, because I promise you most of these people are trying to come to grips with the dilemmas of this time. And they have gotten one big message: that is that we made a horrible mistake to let the deficit get out of hand like we did in the last 12 years. And they deserve respect for getting that message. And they now have a President who will take the lead and fade some of the heat for the unpopularity of the decisions which have to be made. Go with respect for that. Say, "You had to do that, and we respect that."

But remind them that out in the country where you live, bringing down the deficit is important if it gives people jobs and raises people's incomes and if there are people out there who can seize the opportunities of the future. And what you represent is the future. You represent the needs of the people who will not be able to perform even with a sensible economic policy unless we do better in health care, in education, and in dealing with the needs of our poorest children. That is what you represent. None of this other stuff will amount to a hill of beans unless we put the American people first in all of these decisions. That is the message I plead with you to bring to the Congress.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Marian Wright Edelman, president, Children's Defense Fund. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the National Conference of State Legislatures *March 11, 1993*

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

Q. Mr. President, do you think Yeltsin's going to survive?

The President. I think that he is the duly elected President of Russia and a genuine democrat, small "d," and that he is leading a country that is trying greatly to do two things: one, escape from communism into

market economics, a world they never lived in before; and second, to preserve real democracy. That's a tough job. Pretty hard to do here. [*Laughter*]

I intend to do what I can to be supportive of that process and to be supportive of him while he serves as President of Russia. I don't know what else to tell you. I'm not a seer. I don't know what's going to happen to him or me tomorrow. I have confidence in him. I want to work with him as long as I can.

Attorney-General-Designate Janet Reno

Q. What about Janet Reno?

The President. I'm elated by that. I told—I had some Senators in the office, and I said, that may be the only vote I carry '98 to 0 this year. [*Laughter*] She's a very good person, and I think she will do well.

Q. When is she going to be sworn in?

The President. When?

Q. When?

The President. Soon, I hope. I've been waiting for someone to—[*laughter*].

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:15 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Congressional Caucus For Women's Issues *March 11, 1993*

Abortion Clinic Shooting

Q. Mr. President, do you have any reaction to the shooting of Dr. Gunn in Pensacola?

The President. Yes. I was outraged by it. We have got to create a climate in this country where people do not think that is acceptable. And I think that's—how could someone have thought that they could take civil disobedience and carry it one extra step? Dr. Gunn was exercising his constitutional rights. And what happened was awful.

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

Q. —Yeltsin apparently had informed you that he plans to dissolve or may have to dissolve the Parliament. Have you gotten word of that, and what's your reaction to it?